

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07276 081023Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /039 W
-----111536 081042Z /12

O P 080900Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 774
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION CRISIS IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 7159

1. THE 189 BOAT REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED JUNE 7 WERE TEMPORARILY ACCOMMODATED WITH MAKESHIFT ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS PUTTING 12 PERSONS IN ROOMS DESIGNED FOR TWO, TURNING HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM INTO DORMATORY AND FINDING LIMITED OUTSIDE FACILITIES.

2. SITUATION BECAME EVEN MORE CRITICAL ON JUNE 8 WHEN TWO JUNKS WITH TOTAL 61 REFUGEES ARRIVED. HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID) HAS REFUSED TO LAND THESE REFUGEES UNTIL UNHCR NOT ONLY PROVIDED USUAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE ASSURANCE, BUT ALSO GUARANTEES ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THEM. UNTIL THAT TIME REFUGEES WILL HAVE TO REMAIN ON THEIR JUNKS IN HONG KONG WATERS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAMPATKUMAR NOW PLANS TO COME TO HONG KONG FROM KOREA NIGHT OF JUNE 10. IT IS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET CLEAR HOW LONG HE INTENDS TO REMAIN HERE. WE HOPE THAT THIS TIME HE WILL REMAIN IN HONG KONG LONG ENOUGH TO LOCATE AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND/OR COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF MACAU AS SITE FOR HONG KONG REFUGEE OVERFLOW.

4. FOR GENEVA. IF THIS MATTER IS RAISED DURING LOWMAN'S

CONSULTATIONS WITH UNHCR, WE WANT TO STRESS THAT HKID
POSITION IN PARA TWO REFLECTS A TIGHTENING OF POLICY
WHICH WAS PREDICTABLE. NEITHER SAMPATKUMAR NOR
CARPENTER HAVE APPEARED TO TAKE ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM
SERIOUSLY IN THE PAST. IF SAMPATKUMAR COMES TO HONG
KONG AND FAILS TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION AT THIS LATE
STAGE, IT COULD HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON
HONG KONG GOVT ATTITUDE TOWARDS BOAT ARRIVALS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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